

MUCH BIRCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish and Annual Statutory Council Meetings of Much Birch Parish Council held consecutively on the Zoom Platform, during Covid 19 Virus Pandemic, Thursday 6th May 2021 from 7.30 pm

Present:

Cllr Alison Cook (Chair)
Cllr Roisin Burge
Cllr A Crum
Cllr D Baldwin

In attendance:

Parish Clerk; Alison Wright and Ward Cllr; Toni Fagan

Annual Parish Meeting and Public Question Time:-

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public present at the meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.31 pm.

1.0 Co-option of councillor and signing of forms

There were no candidates presented for co-option.

2.0 To elect a Chairman and receive acceptance of office forms

Cllr Cook was proposed by Cllr Baldwin and seconded by Cllr Crum. There were no further nominations. Cllr Cook accepted the role of Chair.

3.0 To elect a Vice Chairman and receive acceptance of office forms

Cllr Baldwin was proposed by Cllr Cook and seconded by Cllr Burge. There were no further nominations. Cllr Baldwin accepted the role of Vice Chair.

4.0 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies received from Footpath Officer Steve Owen.

5.0 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held via Zoom on the 8th April 2021, were approved as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

7.0 Reports

7.1) P.C.S.O. from West Mercia Police

Golden Valley Briefing sent when received.

7.2) Ward Councillor Ward Cllr Toni Fagan advised that she had circulated the Leaders Report. A new CEO was in place for Herefordshire Council, Mr Paul Walker. A court ruling, regarding the situation within the children's services department, would be leading to a change of personnel and new board members. Ward Cllr Fagan updated regarding Covid 19, including a local farm outbreak, and forthcoming council meetings with difficulties being experienced with finding suitable venues for the full council to meet in person.

The Ward Cllr left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

7.3) Locality Steward James Howells, the Locality Steward, had sent his bulletins.

8.0 To appoint councillors to the following working groups

Finance Working Group – all

Employment Working Group – convene if required

Self Help Winter Gritting Working Group – all as required

9.0 Information and Correspondence

Talk Community Covid Update - 19/04/21

Minerals and Waste Local Plan Pre-Submission Consultation ends on 24 May 2021

High Court dismisses claim for continuation of remote meetings

HALC

Information Corner

Knife Angel (Hereford) Project – tackling knife and aggressive crime through training and awareness – request for support with funding the workshops received.

10.0 Financial Report

10.1) The following bank balances were noted:

@ 13 th April 2021 HSBC Community Account	£9,218.25
@ 13 th April 2021 HSBC Community Projects Account	£7,732.84

10.2) To approve list of payments (circulated separately)

The following payments were approved:

Payments to be made from main account

Clerk paid in accordance with contract

HM Revenue & Customs (tax) £67.40

Came & Company (PC Insurance) £347.05

Consideration of a donation towards The Knife Angel Hereford Project was deferred to June Meeting.

Payments to be made from Community account

Nil

Resolved: that the payments were passed for payment: (proposed by Cllr Crum and seconded by Cllr Cook) Unanimous.

10.3) To approve exemption form for accounting statements and appoint the internal auditor for the end of year accounts 2020 – 2021

The exemption form approval was deferred to the June meeting. The internal auditor was confirmed.

10.4) To consider new bank signatories

Some further details were required for the bank survey. New signatories could be set up online. It was resolved that Cllrs Baldwin and Burge would be added to the list of signatories and that Cllr Cook would co-ordinate this.

11.0 Planning Matters

11.1) To consider any planning applications as received:

Planning Consultation - **210869** - Field opposite Minster Farm, Much Birch – siting of shepherds hut for holiday let use

The application 210869 was discussed and it was agreed that clarification as to the number of huts would be sought as the plan was for one, yet two were shown on the application details. It

would also be commented that the appearance of the hut should be in keeping with the surroundings. The hut should be utilised for short term tourism lets only. The comments would be finalised and circulated before submission. Policy references for the NDP would also be incorporated.

12.0 Parish Roads and Footpaths

12.1) To note any defects to be reported to Balfour Beatty

No further potholes or issues were advised, just ongoing as reported.

12.2) To put forward work for the Lengthsman

Previously identified works would be completed. Barrack Hill/Eden Lane corner – grip required.

Cllr Baldwin had answered a hedge cutting query regarding a local property.

12.3) Footpath Officer – to receive any update or action points

The Footpath Officer Steve Owen had sent a comprehensive report, previously. He had sent his apologies. Steve Owens was reconfirmed in the role of Footpath Officer.

13.0 Neighbourhood Plan

The Much Birch Neighbourhood Development Plan was being voted on at the time the PC meeting was in progress. Details of the outcome would be made known. The Chair would be attending the count.

14.0 Parishes Newsletter and Much Birch Website

14.1) To consider items suitable for inclusion in the newsletter and on the website plus Twitter. Clerk would send a précis to the Newsletter. Emphasis on not blocking ditches with clippings if possible.

15.0 Matters to be raised on the Agenda for the next meeting

All the usual items would be included. Also the possibility for co-option of new councillor(s) and passing of the annual accounts for 2020 – 2021

16.0 Confirmation of the date of the next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the Zoom Platform on Thursday 3rd June 2021, from 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.10 PM

Signed:

.....
Chairman

.....
Date